4. Erection of fencing/walls in abandoned/disused workings, drowning of old workings.

5. Dozing off and filling up the illegal mining sites wherever possible.

6. Black listing the trucks seized carrying coal from such operation.

7. Whenever illegally mined coal and implements of illegal mining of coal are seized during the course of raids, the same are handed over to local police stations and FIRs are lodged.

8. Close liaison is kept with the District and State Authorities seeking their help and cooperation in curbing illegal mining.

Shifting of CIL headquarters from Kolkata

785. SHRI SHANKAR ROY CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to shift the headquarters of Coal India Limited, out of Kolkata; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) Government has received representations in this regard and an appropriate decision will be taken after due consideration of all issues.

Shortage of Coal

786. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country is facing acute shortage of coal and now it is proposed to import coal from China and other countries;

(b) if so, what is the current shortage and its future forecast;

(c) whether it is also a fact that coal shortage has cut down production of steel which in turn has increased prices of steel; and

(d) if so, what is Government's action plan to tide over this crisis to help the steel and other industries to raise their production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) Coal consuming industries like steel

plants and some industries requiring superior grade coking coal and low-ash non-coking coal do face shortage due to limited availability of superior grade coking coal and low-ash non-coking coal in the country. The shortage is expected to be met through imports.

(b) For the current year (2004-05), all India demand of coal was assessed by Planning Commission/Department of Coal (DoC) at 404.19 million tonnes against which coal supply plan was finalized for 370.20 million tonnes raw coal from indigenous sources (CIL : 315.05 million tonnes; SCCL: 35 million tonnes & others: 20.1 million tonnes). The gap between coal demand and indigenous supply to the tune of 33.99 million tonnes is envisaged to be met through imports.

For the terminal year of Xth Plan (2006-07) all India demand of coal is assessed by Planning Commission/Department of Coal at 460.50 million tonnes of raw coal against which coal supply plan has been projected to be 405 million tonnes of raw coal from indigenous sources (CIL 350 million tonnes; SCCL: 36.13 million tonnes & others: 18.87 million tonnes). The gap between coal demand and indigenous supply is projected to be 55.5 million tonnes.

(c) and (d) Steel plants have been facing shortage of coking coal due to declining availability of indigenous coking coal on account of depleting reserves of coking coal in underground mines in Coal India Limited and problems in the mines of the major long-term suppliers abroad of steel plants which in turn has affected production of steel marginally. Government have taken steps to augment indigenous production through opening of new mines and also by reducing the duty of coking coal of less than 12% ash to 0% to facilitate import.

In addition to supplies from CIL sources the steel plants of the PSU Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) are permitted to lift coal from other captive coal block operator as and when surplus coal is available on account of various reasons.

Chalk mining in Uttaranchal

†787. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the large-scale mining of chalk in Uttaranchal;

† Original notice c[f] the question was received in Hindi.